11 March 1967

Dear Miss McAlinden:

I was very sorry to hear of your Mother's death. You were indeed fortunate to have her with you for so many years and in good health. I lost my father suddenly from a stroke but he was only in his early sixties.

Some of the plants you enclosed were easy, some rather difficult but I shall do my best with them.

No 1: is Cupressus sargentii Jepson, Sargent's Cypress. It is rather common in the Napa- Sonoma area and is often found on serpentine soils. Normally it grows to 10 or 15 m but may attain heights of 25 m or more.

No. 2: is the fruit and seed of the apricot, Prunus armeniaca. It is often used as a medicinal by the Chinese.

No. 3: is Coyote Brush, Baccharis pilularis DC. ssp. consanguinea (DC.) C. B. Wolf. Its normal range is the outer Coast Ranges throughout and on the Channel Islands but it is also local in the central Sierran foothills from Butte Co. to Tuolumne Co.

No. 4: is another Cupressus, apparently the true funereal cypress, C. sempervirens L., Italian Cypress. It may have erect, strict branches or spreading, ascending branches. var. horizontalis Gord. has branches horizontally spreading, whereas var. stricta Ait. has erect branches forming a columnar head. The species is a native of Eurasia. Another possibility is our Monterey Cypress, but that does not seem to fit our specimen. Cones could give us a definitive answer.

No. 5: Is a twig from an Australian phyllodal Acacia, most likely Acacia melanoxylon R. Br., Blackwood Acacia. It is often cultivated in California and sometimes even volunteers. It is often an evergreen tree to 20 ft. and more, of pyramidal form and with dense foliage. Often sucker shoots and young seedlins have leaves that are very finely dissected or transitional to the adult leaves, which really are merely a greatly expanded and flattened petiole and mid-rib with all the leaf blade tissue gone.

No. 6: is certainly not a Camptotheca. In fact I cannot imagine a tree more dissimilar. This is a specimen of legume, probably an Albizia, most likely Albizia julibrissin Durazz., the Silk Tree. It is a Asiatic species commonly grown in the warmer parts of this country, esp. in out SE states.

Sorry for the delayed determinations. I am very busy now trying to finish up my flora of Santa Catalina Island.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Thorne